

**In the Claims.**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A VPO catalyst of the general formula:



- a = 0.1-2.5
- b = 0-3.0, in particular 0.001-3.0
- c = 0.1-10
- d = depends on the valency of the other elements
- e = 5-100 (% by weight)
- f = 95-0 (% by weight), in particular 95-5 with the provision that b and f

are not simultaneously 0

- X = Cr, Mo, W, Fe, Ru, Co, Rh, Ir, Ni, Pd, Pt, Zn or Nb
- Y = cyclic nitrogen compound,
- Z = SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub> or TiO<sub>2</sub> or their mixtures,

manufactured in accordance with a method in which one carries out the following steps:

- a) converting V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and concentrated phosphoric acid in an organic medium under reflux conditions,
- b) separating off catalyst precursor that forms and optionally
- c) drying at 80 to 140°C,
- d) impregnating the optionally dried catalyst precursor with an aqueous or alcoholic solution of the metal X, with X having the significance quoted above,
- e) separating off excess solution,
- f) drying and calcining the impregnated material, and
- g) optionally forming the catalyst obtained.

2. (Original) The VPO catalyst in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the catalyst contains SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub> or TiO<sub>2</sub> or their mixtures as a support.

3. (Original) The VPO catalyst in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the catalyst contains 0.01 to 5 % by weight of an organic cyclic nitrogen compound.

4. (Original) The VPO catalyst in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that the catalyst contains as the nitrogen compound a compound selected from the group pyridine, quinoline, pyridazine, pyrimidine, and pyrazine.

5. (Original) The VPO catalyst in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that the catalyst contains 3-methylpyridine as the nitrogen compound.

6. (Presently amended) A method of ~~use~~ manufacture of 3-cyanopyridine, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the a VPO catalyst of the general formula:



a = 0.1-2.5

b = 0-3.0, in particular 0.001-3.0

c = 0.1-10

d = depends on the valency of the other elements

e = 5-100 (% by weight)

f = 95-0 (% by weight), in particular 95-5 with the provision that b and f

are not simultaneously 0

X = Cr, Mo, W, Fe, Ru, Co, Rh, Ir, Ni, Pd, Pt, Zn or Nb

Y = cyclic nitrogen compound,

Z = SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub> or TiO<sub>2</sub> or their mixtures,;

providing catalyst in accordance with claims 1 to 5 for the manufacture of 3-  
cyanopyridine by conversion of 3-methylpyridine;

providing with ammonia;

providing and oxygen;

and combining the VPO catalyst, 3-methylpyridine, ammonia, and oxygen at  
temperatures up to 440°C.